



KEITH SEARLE
opening goal for
Wanderers

WITH their unbeaten Isthmian League record at stake, Wycombe Wanderers went into Saturday's clash against inconsistent Walthamstow Avenue minus several key players. But positive thinking often looked likely to bring them both points as they stretched their run to 13 games without defeat.

The spate of injuries failed to deter the Blues from playing their usual attacking brand of football, even though internationals Delaney and Pritchard, not only missed Friday evening's England-Ireland clash, but also dropped out of the Walthamstow trip. Ted Powell appeared in both games, however.

At times the visitors looked stretched at the back, but their quick-thinking, fast-running forward line was more than a match for the Avenue's unimaginative defence.

Geoff Anthony set the pattern when after 11 minutes he found himself with only the Avenue 'keeper to beat. Fortunately for Walthamstow, however, his shot went wide from just outside the box.

The move though was just a taste of the good things to come for the enthusiastic band of supporters Wycombe had brought with them. The deadly teaming of Tony Horseman and Keith Searle cut large gaps in Walthamstow's defence with the kind of skilful interpassing that has foiled many a defence this season.

Horseman came near to opening the score with a powerful effort which whistled inches past the upright.

Walthamstow Avenue 1, Wycombe Wanderers 1

Avenue, whose performances since their 3-2 defeat at Loakes Park on the first day of the season, have fluctuated wildly, were forced to rely on quick raids in the quest for goals.

Their build-up however was usually too slow and methodical to achieve results.

As the game wore on and the scoresheet remained blank a certain degree of frustration entered the Wanderers' game. This, coupled with their opponents physical style of play, led to a series of fouls, and Walthamstow's Vic Cogger had his name taken after a clash with Wycombe centre half, Vince Faulkner.

Only twice in the first half did the home team look like scoring. But on both occasions defenders made desperate goalline clearances after goalkeeper Kevin O'Brien was caught out of position.

Left back Iain MacLean headed away a shot by Collett and right back Keith Blunt saved the day when he punted

clear a thunder-bolt from Cogger.

The deadlock was broken seven minutes from the interval when Wycombe gained a free kick at the edge of the Avenue's area. Bernie Bremer floated in a simple centre and Searle outjumped the defence to glance in a perfect header.

Walthamstow looked far more constructive when they resumed in the second half, and the visitors seemed caught unawares as the Avenue threw themselves into the search for an equaliser.

In the 53rd minute, the Wycombe defence was slow to re-form as Dave Pellicci hared up the right flank in a breakaway attack. In a rare display of inspired football for the home crowd to cheer, Pellicci took on three defenders before sending in a deadly accurate through ball to frontrunner Cogger.

O'Brien went down the moment Cogger let fly, but his drive powered under the

'keeper's body to level the score.

The goal seemed to satisfy Avenue, who were more than happy to settle for a point. They filed back into a systematic defensive 4-3-3 formation which tended to dampen the play, and held off late Wycombe raids.

WALTHAMSTOW AVENUE:
Browley, Almond, Redman, Rocknean, Wilson, Pellicci, Cogger, Smith, Scarle, Collett, Kane. Sub.: Roseman (not used).

WYCOMBE WANDERERS:
O'Brien, Blunt, MacLean, Powell, Faulkner, Fuschillo, Anthony, Horseman, Searle, Bremer, Hutchinson. Sub.: Gale (not used).

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
WYCOMBE	13	11	2	0	34	8	24
Hendon	14	9	3	2	41	13	21
Oxford C.	15	8	3	4	27	17	19
Sutton U.	13	9	1	3	21	15	19
Enfield	12	8	2	2	19	5	18
Barking	15	7	2	6	33	15	16
Leytonstone	14	5	5	4	20	17	15
St. Albans	10	4	5	1	14	9	13
Walth'mst'w	13	5	3	5	25	21	13
Woking	12	5	2	5	19	19	12
Hitchin	9	5	1	3	16	10	11
Tooting	14	3	5	6	18	20	11
Ilford	10	4	2	4	17	14	10
Kingstonian	12	3	4	5	19	23	10
Maldstone	10	3	2	5	13	17	8
Bromley	12	3	2	7	11	31	8
Wealdstone	13	2	3	8	14	25	7
Dulwich	13	2	3	8	10	20	7
Clapton	13	2	2	9	11	34	6
Corinthian	13	1	0	12	6	51	2